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A.—Yes; 1,952 acres of the Kudiramoli reserve have been disforested.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ May I know whether the area disforested has been assigned to the people in different villages ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ Sir, I shall call for the information.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Will the hon. Member be also be pleased to furnish a statement showing the assignments made to different people ? ”

Action taken by Government on the resolution regarding supply of manure leaves.

* 124 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to refer to the proceedings of this Council, pages 317 to 331 of Vol. XXII, in which a resolution was carried by this House recommending to Government ‘ that manure leaves should be given free to the ryots from the reserves under the management of village forest panchayats and from other forests at a seigniorage of 6 annas per cart-load without prejudice to any privileges now obtaining in any part of the Presidency ’ and state—

(a) how far this recommendation has been carried out by Government ; and

(b) in what parts of the Presidency any special privileges are now obtaining and to what extent ?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to G.O. No. 652, Development, dated 2nd May 1925, which is placed on the Editors' Table.

Conservators of Forests.

* 125 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the number of Conservators of Forests in actual service since April 1925 or who will be in service in the remaining period of the year ;

(b) what is the work they are engaged in ;

(c) how many of them spend their time and how much of it in the Nilgiri Hills ;

(d) now that a considerable portion of the reserved forests is passing under the control of the forest panchayats, what reduction will it enable Government to bring about in the conservative service of the Forest department ; and

(e) whether any officer of the status and standing of Conservator of Forests has been employed this year on any special duty ; and if so, which ?

A.—(a) Six.

(b) Each of the six Conservators is in charge of a circle.

(c) The headquarters of the VI Circle and of the Working Plans Circle are at Ootacamund. The headquarters of the Conservator, V Circle, are also temporarily at Ootacamund for want of accommodation at Coimbatore. The minimum amount of

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touring prescribed for Conservators is six months. The time they spend at their headquarters should not therefore exceed six months.

(d) No considerable area of forest reserves can be transferred to panchayat management unless and until the Forest Panchayat staff is increased. The abolition of certain forest divisions is under consideration and the redistribution of circles will be considered in due course.

(e) None.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ With reference to clause (a) I may say that the people of Coimbatore want that Coimbatore should be made the headquarters of the Conservator, V Circle.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Government have passed orders giving a bungalow to the V Circle Conservator at Coimbatore.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know what the special qualifications of the Panchayat staff are ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ They have all been trained specially in the Forest department. Some of them belong to the Revenue Department, but they have all been specially trained.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Is it not a fact that except the special panchayat officer all the rest are drawn from the lower ranks of the clerical staff of the Revenue Department ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Not all, but a few of them are from the Revenue Department and it cannot be helped.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ My information is that many of them are from the Revenue Department. Are there not forest subordinates of the ranger class available for this kind of work ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I think we should leave the power of appointment in the hands of the Conservator of Forests.”

Government Houses.

Use of the Government House, Guindy, for race purposes.

* 126 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any part of the Government House, Guindy, or the establishment attached thereto is used by the jockeys or others connected with the running of the Guindy Races and if so, with whose permission and on what terms ?

A.—Government House, Guindy, is not used by jockeys or others, but certain buildings (viz., stables, out-houses, etc.) in the grounds are let to the Madras Race Club up to 1st April 1926. The rent is credited to Government.